

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

SOUTHERN FARM LEADER

OFFICIAL ORGAN SHARE CROPPERS UNION

Vol. 1.—No. 4

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MAP FIGHT FOR HIGHER WAGES

END LYNCH LAW, WIN CIVIL RIGHTS CONVENTION SAYS

The right to meet openly—
The right to free speech and free press—
The right to strike and picket—
The right to bargain collectively—
These rights must be established in Central Alabama.
Wholesale arrests of strikers must be prevented—
Flogging of Union members must cease—
Lynch mobs must be arrested and charged with murder—
Landlords who take the law into their own hands must be prosecuted—
Deputy sheriffs who disregard the law they swear to uphold must be removed—

That's the program adopted by the convention of the Share Croppers Union. That's the program, which when put into life, will result in a strong, united open Union of all the farming people in Central Alabama. Secretary C. L. Johnson, in his report to the delegates stressed the fact that the Union is now big enough and strong enough to come out openly and establish its legal right to assemble peacefully and organize. The Union must make a fight at once to enforce the bill of rights of the constitution and put an end to landlord violence.

In order to protect Union members who are arrested and beaten because of their activity in the Union the convention authorized the creation of a defense committee with the following powers:

To provide legal defense for all members needing same.

To raise funds for legal defense.
To spread accurate news and expose all terror and discrimination against Union members, and rally mass support for all Union members persecuted by landlords, thugs, or landlord-controlled officials.

To supply the families of jailed Union members with relief until the members are free to provide for his family.

Food Badly Needed By Thousands In Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—25,000 families, totaling 100,000 persons—are in "a desperate condition."

"Lack of bare necessities of life—food, clothing and fuel has caused much illness that otherwise would have been avoided."

"Lack of proper medical facilities has perhaps caused many deaths."

The State of Alabama condemns its own relief policy. The above quotations are from a speech made by A. H. Collins, State Welfare Commissioner, delivered before a local relief conference recently.

The best brands bear the Union Label. The best buyers buy Union Label brands.

Children of the Disinherited



These are sharecropper children. Delegates to the first convention of the Share Croppers Union kept this picture ever in their minds. They discussed the serious problems which face them—and their children—today. The decisions of the convention when transformed from talk to action will mean a better life for the millions of children in the cotton belt and a better life for their parents.

LET'S PLAN TOGETHER

J. R. Butler, President,
H. L. Mitchell, Secretary,
Southern Tenant Farmers' Union,
P. O. Box 5215,
Memphis, Tenn.
Brothers:-

From our first convention of the Share Croppers Union, we extend our warmest fraternal greetings to our brothers in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and compliment the heroic work you all have done to win freedom and plenty for the oppressed people of the South and to abolish the brutal sharecropping system.

In our convention we discussed the many problems facing the day laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners. We too have faced the planters' lynch mobs, we too have been through strikes and struggles. Ever since 1931 we have been organizing in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana to win the same things you all are working for.

Up until now our Unions have discussed problems and at times signed united front agreements together, but we have not really carried out united front activities. Our convention was convinced that we should work together in all struggles that will effect both our Unions. We could do more to organize a big defense movement against landlord terror and for our demands.

We propose that the Executive Council of our Unions appoint committees of five to meet in the very near future and plan what we can do about a united struggle for our demands.

We proposed the following points as a basis of discussion:

1. The struggle for higher wages and better working conditions and the possibility of a united cotton pickers' strike.
2. The struggle to win the right for sharecroppers and tenants to gin and sell their own cotton and other rights the planters deny them.
3. An immediate struggle for drouth relief for

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UNION CONVENTION MOVES TO GET DROUTH RELIEF, SET UP LEGAL DEFENSE GROUP

Women Delegates Discuss Schools, Adopt Program

A special program to meet the problems of farm women and their children was adopted by the first convention of the Share Croppers Union.

Women delegates from Alabama and Mississippi played a large part in the three day meeting and throughout the convention they raised the question of education.

The delegates described the miserable conditions of the Negro and white schools in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana and all the other Southern states.

The told of their children having to walk three and four miles along muddy roads to little one-room school houses whose windows were broken and whose roofs leaked.

In angry tones they described classes of sixty and seventy children all crowded into one room with one instructor attempting to teach six grades at once.

Special emphasis was laid by the delegates on means of lengthening the school year, after Negro delegates had told of some Jim Crow schools which were open only three months a year.

The convention decided to press for Federal aid to education, for longer school terms, free school books, free buses and higher wages for school teachers.

A resolution was adopted calling for free medical attention for rural school children, and for the passage of the Marcantonio bill which provides maternity insurance. The resolution called for the end of the kind of life that "has brought misery, sickness, and unhappiness into the lives of farm women, making them live a life of hell instead of happiness . . ."

Conditions Worse, Williams Says

By HARRY WILLIAMS,
PRESIDENT

SHARE CROPPERS UNION
Sharecroppers are suffering exploitation more and more from the landlords in the deep South. Hundreds of thousands of sharecroppers, both Negro and white, don't know as yet the old AAA and Bankhead Act have been killed. These people in the South have the disadvantage of no education or culture. They are unable to know when the legislature changes the program. Thus the landlords give orders to the share-

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A dollar a hundred pounds for cotton pickers this fall.

The right of sharecroppers and share-tenants to gin and sell their own cotton.

Adequate drouth relief for all farmers whose crops have been hurt by the severe drouth and direct Federal aid for all farmers who are in need.

The establishment of a joint committee between the Share Croppers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in order that the two groups might work out their common problems together.

These are the immediate aims of the Share Croppers Union it was decided by forty delegates, Negro and white, who attended the Union's first convention in New Orleans during the last few days of July.

The convention instructed the executive council to find out if the 12,000 members of the Union are willing to strike to win a dollar a hundred pounds for cotton pickers and a dollar and a half a day for other farm labor.

The executive council was directed to begin a drive to raise \$3,000 to feed Union members during the strike if it is called, and to rally all the trade unions and progressive farm organizations to help the Share Croppers Union in its fight.

President Harry Williams and Secretary C. L. Johnson have already sent to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union a letter calling for cooperation in the struggle for higher wages, for right to gin and sell cotton, for drouth relief, against foreclosures and evictions, for better schools for Negro and white children, and for the building of a strong organization to defend union members against the terror of the landlords and deputy sheriffs.

The convention called for the abolition of the poll tax as the first step in the fight to win the right to vote the poor Negro and white farmers. The convention meeting secretly here in order that the delegates, all of them leading union members, might be protected from the landlords, heard Secretary Johnson tell of the history of the Share Croppers Union.

All of the resolutions the convention are printed on page four and five. They should be read by every Union members, for they form the program which the Union will follow in the struggles which will soon come.

All the political Ballyhoo does not amount to as much as the purchase of one Union Label article.

Union Label buying will help to retain your job and maintain your wages.

If all patriotic societies would buy only American-made goods it would do more to stabilize our institutions than all the talk about the invasion of foreign ideas.

Simmesport Hoodlums Drive Organizer Moore Out of Town

SIMMESPORT, La. — John S. Moore, an organizer for the Louisiana Farmers' Union, was forced out of his home here by a mob of fifty men who warned him "to leave town on the next bus or else—!"

The names of many of the vigilantes are known and they will be prosecuted in the courts. They include John Brouette, Eddie and Worthy Lamoine, Walter Dibble and Lawrence Saguans.

Although the identity of the hoodlums has been revealed Mayor Murphy Lecoure and Town Marshall Seeling have made no move to arrest the lawbreakers. This is in violation of their oath to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens.

"Here's the way I look at it," said a Simmesport worker, angered by Mayor Lecoure's failure to arrest the vigilantes, "If you were the mayor of a town three blocks square it looks to me like you'd know about the mob, and you'd know who was in it. You'd investigate it. Simmesport has only about 2,000 people, half of whom are Negro. If Mayor Lecoure really wanted to, he could find the law-breakers."

Moore was driven out of town because he was organizing the poor farmers around Simmesport. The mob's visit to his home marks the second time that he has been attacked since May when he was arrested and charged with "criminal libel" because of a letter that appeared in the SOUTHERN FARM LEADER a letter which he did not write.

Moore was freed on bond, but his trial has not yet been called. The letter written by a member of the Farmers' Union called for the boycotting of John Lackey's store in Leonier. Lackey is a merchant who is against the Union.

Telegrams protesting the mob action against Moore were sent to President Roosevelt, Gov. Leche and Mayor Lecoure.

The answer of the Union members in and around Simmesport to the attacks on their organizers is a Union strong enough to force the local officials to protect organizers.

OUR RURAL SCHOOLS

By Lillian Munis

Those of us who live in the South particularly those caught in the vicious plantation system, know that the odds are against us. We are the forgotten men! We are deprived of all social, economic, political and religious rights. Yet all are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

We are only asking for the right to live full and creative lives. Surely that is not too much to ask!

We are denied schools but we must have them. They are a means of our bringing in a better society where all men will have the opportunities which are now enjoyed by only a few. What can we do about it?

We must bring pressure to bear on those in power. They must realize that we are aware of conditions as they are. We have faith in what we can do if given the chance. We must have good schools, transportation, well-trained teachers and equipment.

What is wrong in your community? What is needed? What has to be done in order to wipe the South free of one of its greatest drawbacks—illiteracy?

Will you write to us telling us what the conditions are and what you think should be done? Then we can decide on a course of action together. We can send petitions to the county and state superintendents of education. We can make appeals in such great numbers that the officials will be forced to hear us. And they must. We can not live like animals, going on from day to day with nothing but work and nothing to show for it. We are men and women! We want our constitutional rights and "we will not be moved" until we get them!

Relief Workers Forced To Pick Cotton In Texas

By HAROLD PREECE

Mr. Preece is one of the South's most active labor journalists. This article about conditions in the Texas Cotton Country was written especially for the Southern Farm Leader.

AUSTIN, Texas. — Prospects for the cotton picker are slimmer than ever with the beginning of this year's season. The slight increase in acreage is more than balanced by an increase in the number of pickers: men, women, and children who have been increasingly eliminated from the relief rolls since January 1. Since the introduction of WPA on January 1, the number employed on the projects has been reduced from 125,000 to 81,000.

Now that the cotton is ready to be picked, further reductions may be expected. In Ellis County, one of the major cotton counties of the United States, workers were required to stand in line before the relief station while the planters sized them up as if they were so many mules. In accordance with the policy approved by Federal Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, all men refusing to accept this employment were immediately dropped from the rolls and barred from further employment. The workers, who had previously struck in 1932, against a relief wage of 75 cents per day, forced the discontinuance of these practices.

Workers are being promised their WPA jobs back after the close of the picking season. But in all probability, many of them will be told that the projects are full and that no further work exists for them. Those dropped from Federal and State relief rolls will be forced by local charity skates into the fields, even though the wages will hardly pay for the board of the pickers. Local constables are polishing up their six-shooters preparatory to driving penniless unemployed to the large plantations and farms.

From starvation to starvation—this is the fate of the majority of casual laborers in Texas. There is no difference between the moldy beans of the relief station and the moldy beans on which the picker will have to live on while picking cotton for 50 cents per hundred. The moment that the picking is completed, many workers will be driven from the county in order that local relief officials will not have to bear the burden of supporting them.

In a great many counties, the pickers will have to provide their own sacks. This is the latest scheme of the landlords along the rich valleys to obtain the greatest amount of work for the least amount of pay. And as usual this year, pregnant women will pick cotton until the day before their children are born. Last year, a child was actually born in the fields, being delivered by the father.

The small owner and tenant are only slightly more fortunate. The farm debt conciliation committee have collapsed leaving the small owner more in debt than ever. Due to the reduction in acreage, the tenants are again having to pay bonus rents in order to obtain any land at all. "In one South Plains County, 250 families were forced to move because the landlords refused to renew their contracts."

A devastating flood has left homeless several thousand Negro and Mexican tenants living in South Texas. Unfortunately Texas is the least organized of the Southern states although it ranks first in agricultural production. Encouragingly, the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is making some headway in Northern and Western Texas. The STFU is

HOW TO ORGANIZE

By C. L. JOHNSON

The convention of the Share Croppers Union adopted a program of action that should stir the entire South. The big job now is to put this program into life and to go about organizing to win the demands of the Union.

A very important part of carrying out the program is building a defense movement so strong that every attack by the landlords can be met, so strong that every member can feel the Union 100% with him. We have seen many of our brothers willing and anxious to get into the work, but they feared that we were not strong enough to stop the landlord terror.

We must remember that these brothers have responsibilities and families. We cannot expect all of them to throw themselves 100% into the work. On the other hand we have heroic leaders who sacrifice everything for the Union. But at the same time we don't want these brave and courageous people to throw their lives away. They are very valuable to our Union. We want live leaders, not dead heroes.

The answer is that we must build a very strong defense movement in our Union where we will have the support of the American Federation of Labor, the farm unions, and all other organizations and people who are against terror and violence. We must have money to hire lawyers and carry on legal defense. We must learn how to use self-defense against terror. This will be the answer to one of our most important problems.

Another important problem is money for strike relief. The AAA made conditions so bad that the day laborers and sharecroppers have almost nothing to live on. It is very hard for them to go on strike because it means they will almost starve to death. They want to strike, they want to win the demands of the Union, but starvation is staring them in the face.

The decision of the convention to build a \$3,000 strike relief fund for the coming struggles is the answer. The Executive Council has a great task ahead. Much of our success depends on doing this and we will make every effort to accomplish it.

As a last word, remember this: The main strength of the Union is not from the outside, but is from our own membership. We must have a very strong Union or we will get nowhere. A real powerful Union can go a long way by itself, and it can go further and faster with support. Build the Share Croppers Union strong!

This Farmer Should Not Lose His Land

BROTHER EDITOR:—

I have 65 acres of land. I got in bad shape and had to mortgage it for \$700. Times got so hard till I couldn't meet the payments. I paid \$11.00 to get an appraiser so I could put in a loan. I waited a long time to hear. After so long a time I heard from them, they said it would not produce enough per acre. My land will produce 150 pounds lint per acre I fail, with that loan I tried another loan. And it waited so long till the mortgage was foreclosed for the amount of \$700. I have got till February the first to reduce it if I want to put in a loan and redeem it.

A POOR FARMER
Jackson's Gap, Ala.

handicapped by a lack of tie-ups with the unemployed groups and labor organizations. But its organizers and its literature are producing encouraging results.

HOLIDAY ASSN. SEEKS TO UNITE FARM GROUPS

Oklahoma Union Points To 30,000 New Members

By ODIS L. SWEEDEN

(Mr. Sweeden is Oklahoma State Secretary and member of National Executive Committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. He is one of the most active organizers of agricultural workers in the South.)

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Oklahoma division of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union continues to grow. Five counties are in the process of organizing into county units.

The Union expects its membership campaign to result in 30,000 new members by Sept. 1.

The Fourth of July was celebrated by the Union in a big meeting at Tullahoma, Oklahoma. This was attended by the largest crowd in the history of Wagoner County. A county organization was set up.

August fourth at Hones, Oklahoma, a Southern Tenant Farmers Union rally will be held. A crowd of 2,000 is expected.

Several important victories for agricultural workers has been won by the union on supplementary government work.

The Union is planning a big Labor Day celebration at Slick, Oklahoma, in Creek County.

The First of October a harvest festival will be held at Orbeke Indian Stomping Grounds. A crowd of ten to fifteen thousand tenant farmers, sharecroppers and farm hands and Indians is expected.

Tribal ceremonies of the Creek tribe will be put on as well as a stomp dance and an Indian match ball game. This is in McIntosh County.

In Muskogee County, the spinach festival, the agricultural workers are continuing to join the union, preparing for fall activities in the spinach fields.

UNITY PLEA BY FARM HOLIDAY

The National Farmers Holiday Association, carrying out an important part of its program which calls for the unity of all the farm organizations, has issued to the Share Croppers Union an invitation to join with it in one national organization.

John H. Bosch, president of the Farmers' Holiday Association, has written to C. L. Johnson, secretary of the Share Croppers Union, explaining the position of his organization.

"The National Farmers Holiday Association . . . fully understands that there are local problems in the different sections of the United States which are peculiar to those districts and are not exactly national in scope. In this part of the United States we don't have the problem of the sharecropper as distinctly as you have it there. About fifty per cent of the farms are operated by the owners and their families. About eighty-eight per cent of the farms are heavily mortgaged, which economically places these farmers in very nearly the same position as the southern sharecroppers."

"I would like to have you confer with your associates and discuss thoroughly the suggestion I am making here: That we join into one national organization."

"Although the principal plank in the Holiday Association platform is production for use, we fully understand that immediate problems must be recognized and every effort made to protect the producer under the profit system as long as it exists."

By JOHN H. BOSCH
President, National Farmers' Holiday Association

The National Farmers' Holiday Association came into being in 1931 and 1932. It was an attempt of unorganized farmers to use the methods of organized labor, that is, to withhold their labor or the products of their labor from the market until a reasonable price could be secured. There was also a definite plan to try to control the flow of farm products to the market should the strike be successful.

The strikes were not successful in so far as the marketing of farm products was concerned, but they were successful in demonstrating to farmers the possibilities of mass action. The failure to generally improve marketing conditions brought thousands, even millions, of foreclosure sales and evictions, and the lesson taught by activities of the Holiday Association toward the prevention of these sales and evictions.

It would be impossible to state exactly the number that have been prevented, although it is certain that those actually and indirectly stopped would very nearly number a million. Many states passed moratorium laws as a result of Holiday Association activities. The Federal government enacted modified bankruptcy laws that could more adequately meet the situation.

It was early recognized by some of the Holiday Association leaders that the prevention of a foreclosure sale or an eviction, while in itself valuable to the individual farmer and to the farmers generally in that it taught them the effectiveness of mass action, could not in any sense be considered corrective of the causes that made foreclosures and evictions possible.

The national convention of the Farmers' Holiday Association held June 30 and July 1 at St. Paul, Minnesota, brought the inevitable clash between those who believed in the old style leader controlled farm organization and those who believed in membership control, and in this instance the latter won.

The program of the National Farmers' Holiday Association from here on will be an attempt to coordinate the efforts and activities of all farm group that believe primarily in the production-for-use principal. Membership control has become definitely a part of the Holiday program. In fact, the value of the Holiday Association will be determined by the active interest that its members take in the organization and its program. The executive board is definitely instructed to contact all other farm organizations with similar programs in an attempt to create, by affiliation or merging, a large national organization. Each state or locality will continue to have its individual problems, which will continue to be met by their respective states or localities. The national organization, the value of which in the past was somewhat doubtful, now becomes of primary importance. In every district, from the sharecroppers and farm tenant section of the South to the renter and family owned and operated farm district of the North, conditions are becoming more intolerable. The brutality of hired deputies and thugs is being used to prevent any effort of the struggling farmer to better his condition. To meet this situation only a national organization is adequate. The National Farmers' Holiday Association hopes that it will succeed in its efforts to coordinate all left-wing organizations with the production-for-use principal and the membership-control organizational structure.

Women's buying power is the "key to recovery" when it is spent for Union-made goods and Union services.

Landon, Candidate of Wall Street, Is Foe of Farming People

Republicans Are Backed By Enemies of Farmers

By C. L. JOHNSON

Keep your ears and eyes open during this presidential campaign. It is the most important one since the Civil War.

There are real issues facing the people in this campaign. First, are we going to have a dictatorship forced upon us such as the workers in Germany and Italy suffer under today? The Liberty League formed by Wall Street is the real threat to the liberty of the people. It is backed by the Morgans, DuPonts, Henry Fords, Hearsts and other big bankers. Are we to have the right to join unions, strike and picket, and carry on other union activity to better our conditions? This is the main issue.

Second, will the closed mills and factories be re-opened to give jobs to unemployed workers? Will a system of real unemployment, social and old age insurance be started to care for those unable to work or to get jobs?

Third, will the farmers get relief from their tremendous debt burdens by a system of Federal loans as proposed in the Frazier-Lemke Bill? Will the day laborers, sharecroppers and tenants be given a decent living standard and their civil and constitutional rights? Will those farm toilers evicted from the land be re-settled on the land under decent conditions?

Fourth, will our government continue headlong preparations for war? Will it continue to spend billions on war preparations while millions of our people are starving? Will we fight another war to make Wall Street bankers richer, ourselves poorer and destroy the young generation?

There are many other important issues but these are the main ones. Now let's see how the candidate line up.

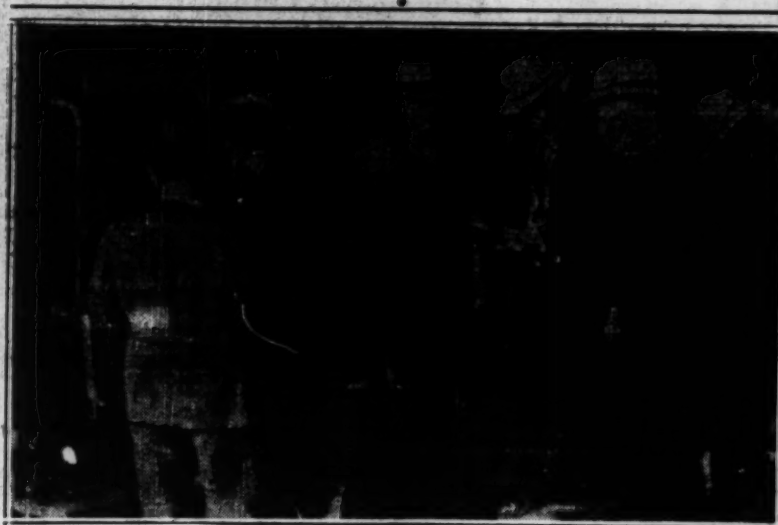
Alf Landon, Republican candidate is being backed by the Liberty League and that enemy of labor and the Negro people, William Randolph Hearst. In Governor Landon's home state, Kansas, he has done nothing to aid the farmers or workers and that the state gives less aid to education than any other state. The Republican election platform is just a gang of loose promises that mean nothing even to them. Republican Congressmen helped defeat the Frazier-Lemke Bill. The fact that the

Liberty League is behind Landon makes him the greatest enemy of the people in this election. It is upon him that Wall Street is depending to pass laws that hitch a dictatorship over the threat of dictatorship like they have in Germany and Italy. The defeat of Landon is a defeat for Wall Street and the Liberty League.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is representing the Democratic Party. Every one knows that in the South the landlords represent the Democratic Party. From bitter experience the Alabama and Arkansas sharecroppers know that the Roosevelt administration did nothing to protect them against terror, murder and eviction carried out by landlord gangs. Roosevelt's AAA has made the conditions of the farmers worse than any time in history. The NRA gave a spurt to labor organization but it did not do much to make wage and living standards higher. The administration did not stop the employers from using hundreds of tricks to keep from living up to the letter of the NRA. They defeated the Frazier-Lemke Bill.

The Republicans and the Liberty League shout that Roosevelt is being ginning Socialism in this country. Is Roosevelt taking over the wealth of the nation under government control? Is he doing away with private profit? Is he building a production for use and not for profit economic system? No! Wall Street and the Liberty League say this to turn the workers and farmers against Socialism by representing Roosevelt's hodgepodge program as Socialism. Also they try to prejudice people against

'THE EMBATTLED FARMERS STOOD'



This is what happens in Kansas the state ruled by Alfred Landon, candidate of the millionaires and landlords. This picture shows a sheriff arresting farmers who refused to permit him to foreclose a home. The farmers were charged with "contempt of court"

NEW DEAL—EVICTED



And this is what happens in Arkansas the Democratic state which Roosevelt likes so much. Here are sharecroppers evicted from their cabins because they were members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. They are shown in the dead of winter at the side of the road



FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT



EARL BROWDER



ALFRED LANDON



NORMAN THOMAS

Now is the time for a third party a Farmer-Labor party that will be based on the labor and farm unions and other working class organizations. A party that would have a program of the immediate needs of the people. It is too late to have a presidential candidate on such a party but for congressional, state and local elections it is possible. And by sending Farmer-Labor representatives to Congress the ground will be well broken for a Farmer-Labor presidential campaign in 1940.

For this year look over the other parties in the field. Investigate the programs of the Independent, Socialist and Communist parties. Find out which of these parties is supporting the building of a real Farmer-Labor party for 1940. A large vote for these parties will force the administration to recognize more than before the demands of the people. It will make all the people recognize that they can use their political rights for their own benefit and needs.

In the South, where thousands of people are denied the right to vote a major campaign will be carried on to win that right. The Share Croppers Union is calling on all labor farmer, church and fraternal organizations to circulate petitions demanding that the legislatures repeal poll tax laws and other discriminatory voting laws.

The main issue in this election is the defeat of Landon and the Republican party which is controlled lock stock and barrel, by Wall Street the Liberty League and Hearst. This issue means democracy or fascism (open dictatorship). Defeat Landon as the main enemy of the people. Make your vote a vote for a Farmer-Labor party by supporting a party that will help build a Farmer-Labor party. **DEFEAT LANDON!**

Greetings to Convention From Farm Organizations

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we, the Workers Alliance of Minnesota, greet the delegates assembled at your convention.

The struggles which you have conducted for better conditions for the Southern workers and farmers is a source of great encouragement to us.

We urge you to keep up your good work and assure you of our readiness to assist you in remedying the terrible condition which exists for the workers particularly in the southern states.

WORKERS ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA

We extend our fraternal greetings to all of our brothers in the Southland who are being exploited by the vicious profit system.

We have but one common enemy and that enemy is the capitalist system. Brothers, we unite and oppose that system or else submit

and become its slaves under a system far more vicious than chattel slavery ever was, that of a military fascism which is now fastening itself upon the people.

INDIANA FARMERS UNION

We send our heartfelt greetings to the Share Croppers Union and wish you every success in your convention.

We have watched you grow under fire. We admire your courage and steadfastness to a worthwhile purpose. We commend your leaders and hope that they will continue to lead you to a united organization controlled by the workers and farmers of the South.

We hope that you will join with the national movement for a new political party built from organized labor and farmers and controlled by the rank and file. Such a party will aid you in your

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RESOLUTIONS OF SHARECROPPERS

DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND STRIKE

WHEREAS, in central Alabama the constitutional right of the farming people to organize into the Share Croppers Union has been denied, and WHEREAS, in Camp Hill in 1931, in Reeltown in 1930, in Dallas and Lowndes Counties in 1935, organized gangs of landlords broke up union meetings, beat union members and murdered Negro union leaders such as Ralph Gray of Camp Hill, Cliff James and Milo Bentley of Reeltown, Joe Johnson of Hale County, Willie Foster in Dallas County, Ed Bracy, Jim Meriwether and Smith Wadkins of Lowndes County because of their efforts to better the conditions of their people, and

WHEREAS, many other union organizers, both white and Negro have been beaten, jailed, driven from counties and towns, and threatened with death if they ever returned, and WHEREAS, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union has met with brutality and violence from Eastern Arkansas landlords since its organization and has been completely unable to obtain justice in the courts of that state, and

WHEREAS, members of the Share-Croppers Union and of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union have been beaten, evicted and in some instances murdered solely as a result of their membership in the union, and WHEREAS, Preacher, Claude Williams and Willie Sue Blagden (white) were flogged by Arkansas planters when they tried to arrange the funeral of Weems, and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the United States is the law of the land and is supposed to guarantee us the right to organize in unions, to strike to personal liberty and the right to live like human beings, and

WHEREAS, the descendants of the slave owners take all privilege into their hands and make their word the law, spitting upon the Constitution of the United States, robbing us of all our liberties and resorting to violence and murder when we try to act within our human rights and

WHEREAS, in the industrial centers such as Birmingham, Memphis, Chattanooga and Atlanta coal and iron miners have been shot down in cold blood during strikes, organizers of rubber workers beaten in Gadsden by thugs of the Goodyear Rubber Company, leaders of textile strikers in Georgia faced by the strike-breaking National Guard and thrown into Governor Talmadge's concentration camps, and

WHEREAS, this terror and murder being used to smash unions must be stopped by the already miserably low standard of living in the South will be forced lower, and

WHEREAS, if this terror and violation of constitutional rights is allowed to continue we will be living under worse bondage and slavery, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, demands and instructs the Executive Council to work unceasingly for: (1) the unconditional right to organize, meet, strike and picket under the Constitution of the United States without interference from landlords, thugs or officers of the law; (2) the conviction and imprisonment of all landlords, thugs and officers of the law who violate any constitutional and civil liberties of the farm workers (sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners, and DEATH PENALTY FOR ALL LYNCHERS; (3) investigation by the Federal Government of all acts of violence and denial of liberty with those found guilty prosecuted according to law; (4) passage of federal legislation such as the anti-lynching bill to provide severe penalties for all violations of civil and constitutional liberties and support of the LaFollette, Senate Committee investigation of civil rights and defense committee jointly with labor, farmer, church, frat-

Women Are Entitled To Free Medical Aid

WHEREAS, the women and young girls on the plantations and rural areas of the South are exploited and forced to work for very low wages and sometimes no wages, and WHEREAS, women have been denied many of the rights and privileges guaranteed them under the Constitution of the United States, and WHEREAS, farm women have to slave and toil to help provide food and shelter for their children and homes, and

WHEREAS, this kind of life has brought misery, sickness, and unhappiness into the lives of farm women, making them life a life of hell instead of happiness, and WHEREAS, this condition is allowed to continue without any interference by the government or other agencies, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, endorses the following demands and instructs the Executive Council to do all in its power to carry them out: (1) equal wages for equal work for women; (2) Higher wages for cooks, servants, wash women and other such jobs; (3) Change in the Bureau of Home Economics of the Agricultural Extension Service to a program of instruction for the wives of the farm workers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners that will benefit their home lives and be in line with the material with which they have to work; (4) free medical attention at child birth by qualified doctors; (5) a system of maternity insurance as provided in the Marcantonio Bill to insure decent care for women before and after child birth and be it further

RESOLVED, that all farm women be asked to discuss their problems in Southern Farm Leader and that trained leaders be developed to carry on the struggle to win equality and a happy life for farm women

Croppers Pledge Aid To Union Labor

WHEREAS, Wall Street bankers and capitalists control the wealth of the country, dictating the prices farmers receive for their products and dictating wage standards for the workers, and

WHEREAS, both workers and farmers have been driven into misery and poverty while the lords of capital reaped the profits, and

WHEREAS, the capitalists and bankers try to keep workers and farmers divided so they can exploit them to a greater degree, even fooling farmers to scabbing on striking coal miners in Alabama in 1933 and '34, and fooling city workers to scabbing on striking cotton pickers in 1935, and WHEREAS, by cooperation in the struggle against the unjust and greedy profits of the banks, corporations, trusts and landlords, the workers will get higher wages for his labor and the farmer will get higher prices for his products, and

WHEREAS, the farmers provide the necessities of life for the nation, such as food and clothes, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, pledges its support to the organized labor movement, the union label campaign and all struggles of the workers to gain a better life.

ernal and other working class and liberal organizations to carry on a united fight to win these demands and establish constitutional and civil liberties for the workers and farmers of the South.

Convention Asks For Cash Drouth Aid For Tenants

WHEREAS, for the past six years different parts of the country have been more or less seriously affected by the drouth, and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not acted quickly when it was known through the weather bureau that drouths were affecting the farmers, no warning was issued, no measures were proposed to prepare for drouth condition and no money was allocated by Congress for drouth relief, and

WHEREAS, the federal government waited until the farmers were starving before taking action and then only to take care of a small portion of the drouth-stricken farmers, and WHEREAS, the drouth has ruined many farmers, causing them to lose their land, to be burdened with more debts, and in general to make their conditions worse, and

WHEREAS, the drouth was not brought on by the farmers but was a natural hazard for which the government must supply protection, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, endorses the following proposals for relief and instructs the Executive Committee to work energetically for them this fall, 1. Work or cash relief for all drouth-stricken farm families to provide food; clothes and shelter until next year. 2. Full government protection against mortgage foreclosures and against seizure of livestock and farm equipment for debt. 3. Cancellation of all farmers debts to the government (Resettlement Farm Credit Administration, etc.). 4. Special loans to all drouth-stricken farmers for rent, feed, seed, fertilizer and food for the next crop season. 5. Special taxation on the robber profits of the cotton and grain exchanges and on all corporations and individuals dealing with far products to provide a fund for crop insurance for all sharecroppers, tenants and small working farm owners to protect the tillers of the soil against future drouth and natural disaster; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in case government relief proves inadequate and these demands are not granted, this convention gives the Executive Council the authority to call, in conjunction with other farm unions, a FARMERS' MARCH TO WASHINGTON to place these demands before the officials and insist on immediate action.

The Union Label guarantees Union wages, hours and conditions.

EXTENSION SERVICE CAN BE OF HELP TO FARMERS

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Extension Service was organized by the Department of Agriculture to be an information service to the farmers and to aid and educate them in the development of agriculture, and

WHEREAS, the local committees and agents of the Extension Service are controlled by the rich farmers and landlords who use the services of the Extension Service for their own private benefit, and

WHEREAS, under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration the Extension Service agents aided the landlords in cheating the sharecroppers and share-tenants of benefit payments and discriminated against small farmers by underestimating the cotton yield and land measurements, and

WHEREAS, local committees and agents of the Extension Service have carried on propaganda against the farm unions and have participated in and incited mobs against union members (the propaganda against the Share Croppers Union by F. N. Far-



REP. ERNEST LUNDEEN



SEN. LYNN J. FRAZIER

Congressmen Frazier and Lundeen wrote the social security bill which was endorsed by the convention of the Share Croppers Union. The bill provides for unemployment insurance

Union Favors Govt. Loans To Farmers Croppers Against Sales Tax Plan

WHEREAS, the Resettlement Administration was organized by act of Congress to make loans to needy farmers and to help resettle farm laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners who have been evicted from the land, and are unable to get credit from private sources, and

WHEREAS, the Resettlement Administration officials in the States and localities have tried to spread the inadequate funds allotted to the Resettlement Administration over too many families resulting in far too little for each family accepted on the program, and

WHEREAS, the local agents of the Resettlement Administration have discriminated against sharecroppers and tenants and have not given them copies of the contracts, forced them to repay the entire loan in one year and then thrown them off the land to starve, cheated Resettlement farmers in many cases and carried on other activities to the detriment of the farmers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, endorses the campaign, and instructs the Executive Council to work ceaselessly, against all discrimination, cheating and injustices on the part of local agents of the Resettlement Administration and to force the Washington officials to make investigations of grievances and discharge the guilty parties, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council do all in its power, to have the regulations of the Resettlement Administration changed to allow larger loans to more farmers with longer periods of repayment, and that Congress appropriate more money for loans through the Resettlement Administration to farmers.

WHEREAS, Gov. Graves of Alabama plans to call another session of the legislature to vote in a sales tax, and WHEREAS, a sales tax places a great burden on the masses of people while the rich people are hardly affected, and

WHEREAS, the sales tax is used as a substitute for taxes on the profits of the banks, corporations, landlords and on private fortunes, and

WHEREAS, the poor people are already heavily burdened with taxes and are barely able to make a living now, not having enough food and clothes, homes or schools, and other necessities of life, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, condemns the sales tax as an unfair burden on the poor people and pledges to work with other organizations to defeat the sales tax in Alabama and for the repeal of the other sales taxes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the locals of the Share Croppers Union be instructed to send resolutions protesting the sales tax to their representatives in the legislature and have other rural organizations do the same.

THIS IS YOUR

1. For work or cash relief for farmers with a minimum for a 80 hour week for own wages for all labor.
2. Against foreclosure and eviction of farm tenancy and for land to the small farmer and sharecroppers. For government on liberal terms to cover for government credit and crop reduction.
3. For cancellation of all and time extension on all companies.
4. For trade union hours and wages for farm laborers. For wage differential.
5. For full benefit payment programs to all sharecroppers and farmers.
6. For the right of sharecroppers and sell their own cotton and land.
7. For eight month school more teachers, free school lunches in school. For Federal aid for the poor.
8. For support of the organization.
9. For the right to organize and bargain collectively.
10. For struggle against the bands. For establishing the right of workers and farmers in the United States.
11. For the building of a program based on the needs of the poll tax and all other to vote and an energetic drive to vote.
12. No discrimination against youth in any of these demands and Negro workers and farmers common needs.

UNION STUDIES YOUTH PROBLEMS

WHEREAS, the young people of our country are the ones destined to lead in the future, and

WHEREAS, the majority of rural youth have been denied an education, the opportunity to sports and other enjoyments, forced to start work at the age five and six for either no wages, or extremely low wages, and

WHEREAS, this condition prevents the poor people from developing their children so that they may have a better life than the poverty and ignorance the vast majority of the rural people are living in today, and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to organize our children so that they may have a better life, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, endorses and instructs the Executive Council to work for the following demands of the youth (1) equal wages for equal work; (2) Proper facilities for education so that all youth may have at least a 12th grade education; (3) Playgrounds and sport fields in connection with all schools; (4) Support of the American Youth Act and of the program adopted by the American Youth Congress, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southern Farm Leader set aside space for youth problems, that all young workers and farmers be asked to write for the paper and discuss their problems, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council make special efforts to develop youth leaders and set up, when sufficient work is done, a youth section of the Union.

The Share Croppers Union has, after five years, been able to hold its first convention, and plan a complete program of action based on the needs of its members.

This program, is embodied in the resolutions of the convention printed on these pages. Study them. They are a guide to action. They form the road to UNION, JUSTICE AND PLENTY IN THE SOUTH. Travel along this road to a better life.

YOUR PROGRAM

or cash relief for all needy farm laborers with a minimum wage of 40c an hour week for common labor and trade union labor.

reclosures and evictions. For the abolition of the right to the landless tenants and for government loans to all needy farm-terms to cover debts and mortgages, and credit at low interest rates to cover

allation of all unjust debts to landlords on all loans from banks and loan

union hours, wages and working conditions. For abolition of the Southern

benefit payments on government farm all sharecroppers, tenants and small

ght of sharecroppers and tenants to gin own cotton and handle their own crops.

month school, better school buildings, free school books, school buses, free hot. For Federal aid to education.

ght of the organized labor movement. right to organize, meet, strike, picket and

gle against lynching, terror and KKK blishing the rights and privileges guar- and farmers in the Constitution of the

building of a Farmer-Labor party based on the needs of the farmers. For abolition of all other restrictions on the right energetic drive for the right of all people

mination against Negroes, women or these demands. For unity of the white ers and farmers in the struggle for their



The widow of Cliff James and her seven children live here in this Alabama shack with eight other relatives. Cliff James was brutally murdered by the landlords last year because he was one of the most active members of the Share Croppers Union. The name of Cliff James was on the roll of honor read by Secretary Johnson at the convention

Scottsboro Frame-up Protested By Union

WHEREAS, the opinion of Judge Horton, the first judge in the widely known Scottsboro case and the evidence presented by the defense counsel, show beyond a shadow of doubt that the nine Negro boys accused of rape are entirely innocent, and

WHEREAS, the state prosecuting attorney, Tom Knight, and other state officials in this case deliberately tried to whip up race prejudice against these boys because they were Negroes, and

WHEREAS, all efforts to obtain justice in the local courts were drowned in a sea of race prejudice, and WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has twice returned the case to Alabama for retrial because the defendants did not get a fair trial, and

WHEREAS, Negroes were systematically denied their constitutional right to sit on juries, especially in trying members of their own race, and WHEREAS, the continuation of the Scottsboro trial is imposing tax burden on all citizens because of heavy court costs, and

WHEREAS, the Share Croppers Union fights for justice for all people black or white, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, demands that the Scottsboro boys be freed and urges all labor, farmer, church, Negro and fraternal organizations to make this same demand on Alabama officials.

Why support Hitlerites, Fascism-ites and other "ism-ites" by buying foreign goods when you can support 100% Americans by purchasing Union Label products?

POLL TAX KEEPS POOR FARMERS FROM VOTING

WHEREAS, the poll tax of Alabama is imposed upon the citizens of that state in order to deprive the poor farmers and workers of their right to vote, and

WHEREAS, the poll tax law puts political power in the hands of the landlords and industrialists and we cannot get justice from sheriffs, judges and other elected officials who are supposed to represent the people, but act as tools of the landlords and

Industrialists, and WHEREAS, the poll tax law is a violation of the principles of democratic government which the Constitution of the United States upholds and

WHEREAS, it denies the citizens of the kind, voice in the affairs of government whereby acts of the government do not have the consent of the governed, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, in-

High Wages for Farm Workers, Union Goal

WHEREAS, the agricultural wage workers of workers of the South are about the lowest paid workers in the United States, and

WHEREAS, this condition results partly from the wage differential between the North and the South whereby employers say we can live cheaper, are lazy and don't earn as much, but in truth we work just as hard but our living standard is lower, and

WHEREAS, the extremely low wages paid by the landlords not only cause us to live in hunger and misery but also helps keep city workers' wages down by setting an example for city employers, and

WHEREAS, in the cotton choppers' and pickers' strikes in 1934, 1935 and 1936 in Alabama and Arkansas the workers increased wages from 30c and 50c up to 75c and \$1.00 therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union in convention assembled, pledges itself and instructs its Executive Council to aid, organize and support struggles for higher wages, to conduct a campaign jointly with other unions, to abolish the Southern wage differential and continually work to increase wage rates in rural areas.

SUBSCRIBE

Farmers National Weekly
A national farm paper that aids farm struggles and legisla-

Minneapolis, Minn.

P. O. Box 540,

structs its Executive Council to carry on an energetic campaign to have the state legislature repeal the poll tax law, and further be it RESOLVED, that the locals of the Share Croppers Union circulate petitions through the state urging the legislature to abolish the poll tax and ask all other labor and farm organizations to cooperate in this drive.

Subscribe To

THE RURAL WORKER

National paper for agricultural workers in their fight for union, decent wages and work-

ing conditions.
—25c A YEAR—
P. O. Box 176, Station D
New York City

A NEW PARTY IS NEEDED TO BATTLE FOR JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the Republican and Democratic parties have failed to provide real relief for the masses of poverty-stricken farmers in the United States and have allowed landlords, banks, corporations and insurance companies to rob farm laborers and farmers of the fruit of their toil, and

WHEREAS, both parties have refused to pass legislation that would provide loans with which the farmers could live a decent life and man-

More Schools Asked For Farmer Youth

WHEREAS, the South is the most backward section of the United States, and has the highest per cent of illiteracy, fewest schools and the least opportunity for education, and WHEREAS, in the last few years thousands of rural schools in the South were closed because the states refused to support them, thus closing out a large part of the meager opportunity for a little education, and

WHEREAS, rural schools are many times conducted in old churches and shacks, without heat in winter, without school books and libraries, without buses for transportation of students in bad weather or from long distances in crowded class rooms where one poorly paid teacher sometimes teaches six grades in one room with about 60 pupils, and WHEREAS, thousands of children cannot attend school because they have no clothes, means of transportation or are forced to work on the farm, and

WHEREAS, the lack of schools has kept the poor people, white and Negro, in ignorance, has kept them from knowing their rights under the constitution of the United States and

WHEREAS, the landlords and industrialists have exploited, robbed and tricked the poor people at every turn have organized mob terror by using backward prejudices and race-hatred as a means of keeping the poor people in bondage, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union in convention assembled instructs the Executive Council to encourage, assist and lead struggles of the rural people in the South for better schools, free school buses, Federal aid for education and support teachers' struggles for higher wages and be it further

RESOLVED, that we support the struggle of the Negro people for equal opportunities for education and for equal salaries for Negro teachers and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union carry on a campaign to have schools made a primary instead of secondary charge of the state.

Share Croppers Union Expresses Its Thanks To Secretary Johnson

WHEREAS, Clyde Johnson is one of the outstanding champions of the Southern day laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farmers, and

WHEREAS, his intelligent leadership and courage have won for him the love of countless Negro and white farming people, and

WHEREAS, he has worked unendingly, unceasingly and conscientiously in behalf of the thousands of members of the Share Croppers Union, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the The Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, extends to Clyde Johnson its whole-hearted appreciation and gratitude for his labor in its behalf.

tain their land, while at the same time they vote billions of dollars for war preparations, and

WHEREAS, both parties have refused to pass legislation providing funds for old age pensions and unemployment insurance at the expense of those who have hoarded the profits from our toil, and

WHEREAS, both parties have allowed the farmers to be evicted from the land, have allowed landlords and thugs to terrorize and lynch union members and strikers (in Arkansas and Alabama), and

WHEREAS, both parties have endorsed a program of plowing under crops when people go hungry and naked and workers and farmers suffer more than ever from highly increased retail prices, and

WHEREAS, the Republican and Democratic parties receive their biggest backing from Wall Street, the home of the bankers and capitalists who reap the profits of our toil, and carry out the program that they dictate, and

WHEREAS, the Republican Party accepting the backing of the anti-labor, union smashing, Negro-hating William Randolph Hearst and the Liberty League of Du Pont and Morgan, has adopted a platform at their convention that is 100% for Wall Street and 100% against the workers and farmers, and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party convention heard the pleas of the Arkansas sharecroppers for justice and for protection against the murders, beatings, jails and forced labor camps of the Democratic landlords, and refused to do anything about it, and

WHEREAS, they adopted a little more liberal program than the Republican Party and Roosevelt speaks a little more against Wall Street, but when it comes down to brass tacks the word of Wall Street is their command, and

WHEREAS, the new Union party is headed by Father Coughlin, who is an enemy of labor and is backed by William Randolph Hearst and Wall Street, and

WHEREAS, this party's platform is an image of the Republican platform and only shouts light promises, trying to lead the dissatisfaction among the people into another party of Wall Street, and

WHEREAS, the workers and farmers all over the United States are waking up to the fact that they have to have their own political party, controlled by the workers and farmers, and

WHEREAS, in many places local Farmer-Labor party tickets in state and congressional elections have been formed and where the unions in the American Federation of Labor and farm unions have joined to make them a success, and a national Farmer-Labor party conference has already been held under the leadership of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor party, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled declares itself for the building of a real Farmer-Labor party based on the trade unions, unemployed organizations, farmers' unions, and other progressive and working class organizations, with a program based on the immediate needs of the people and for production for use and not for profit, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we support local Farmer-Labor tickets in the coming elections, such as the race of W. C. Irby of the Farmers' Union against Landlord John H. Bankhead for the Senate in Alabama, and be it further RESOLVED, that we make every effort to encourage and build a national Farmer-Labor party, support those candidates in the coming elections that agree with the principles set forth in this resolution and carry on a campaign for the right of all poor people to vote.

OUR READERS WRITE

MOTHERS ON RELIEF, CHILDREN GO HUNGRY

BROTHER EDITOR:-

The condition of the worker in Camp Hill is mighty bad. They are working the women hard in the relief work. They work them just like they do the men and scold them all the time. These women workers report at the meetings of our Union that they are about to starve and their children the same. So they had to do something to try to live. They go among the whites and try to get jobs but they would be told they have to work for just what they can eat.

So the workers are beginning to see that now is our time to try and organize the workers and try and led them to better conditions because we are not going to starve here while there is plenty all around.

In Sandy Fork the landlords are still trying to keep the workers from attending meetings but over there the workers are getting together better than ever because there are so many without food, and clothes and some have no where to stay, and no where to live because when the drought hit so hard the landlords thought that it wasn't going to rain no more. So they turned some of their tenants and croppers out and there were some with large families, and some with small, but they were all without shelter and food.

In Chambers County the spirit of the whites seems to be very good. They report to me that they would join anything that they thought would do them good because they say they are about to starve to death.

THE UNION WIFE
OF A UNION CROPPER
CAMP HILL, ALA.

Conditions Are Worse President Williams Says

(Continued From Page 1)

croppers and they are made to carry them out.

The landlords and the County Agents make out the contracts and force the croppers to sign them without any complaint. If anyone complains they are "brown off the plantation, and in many cases they are beat by the landlords. Then they call up the sheriff and have croppers thrown in jail for resisting the landlords.

The Negro is discriminated against on jobs and in school. No relief is being given for thousands of starving unemployed families living in the South. The only chance for some of them is on the Soil Erosion project at wages of \$1.10 a day and these workers have from 5 to 11 in their families. Under this situation it is a life of starvation, pellagra, dysentery and other diseases. The average death rate of Negroes in the Black Belt is 7 a day and for whites, 3 a day. Negroes don't get decent medical attention.

Negro sharecroppers are being shot down in cold blood because they ask for food, better clothes and for better treatment on their farms. When they ask the landlord for the right to sell their own cotton and a fair settlement they are turned over to the sheriff, carried to jail, held there until the landlord sells the cotton and then another landlord goes to the jail, gets the sharecropper out and places him on another plantation to make another cr. The sharecropping system has become the DEATH WAGE in the South.

Landlord Sends Spy To Tenants Meeting

BROTHER EDITOR:-

We are still having threats and terror from the dirty landlords and mob leaders. E. B. Gennins sends for one of his sharecroppers to ask what he knew concerning the union. This sharecropper was named Sam Kember. He told Gennins every members name who lived on the place. E. B. Gennins said he had the state books searched and they couldn't find it no where where the state says the Farmers Union has a right to organize and if the Farmers Union didn't get authority from the state they was going to give the union trouble. That's why we need more full time organizers.

The sharecroppers of the George Kellar plantation say they are being robbed by Kellar's commissary. He sells flour at \$2.00 per 24lb sack, 10c for baking soda, twenty cents for one can of Prince Albert and everything that he has in this commissary he sells it double price.

George Kellar has a large plantation. He works a lot of day labor and he never pays them except out of the commissary.

Lee Franklin, an agent for the Bunker Funeral home is a very dangerous man. He is against the union. He went to the post office and got some of the member's papers and read them and when the members went to get their paper he told them that the paper was not good for anything. He could throw it away for it was no good he said. Franklin also told H. P. Mounger anything he could do to help break the union up he would do so. So we ask that no union member do any business with Lee Franklin unless he be in favor of the union.

A SHARE CROPPERS WIFE
Lettsworth, La.

SCHOOL BADLY LIGHTED AND HEATED SAYS GIRL

BROTHER EDITOR:-

I want to write about my school. I went through the fifth grade. I read Anne Johnson's piece in the Southern Farm Leader, "Facts on Education". I think she is right. I like her piece very much.

The health doctor comes to the school once a year and gives the children their examination. If they get sick they will send you to the health doctor and he will tell you to go home till you get well. He does not give you anything to ease you.

Medical Attention In Louisiana Inadequate

By A NEGRO SOCIAL WORKER

The provisions for medical care for Negroes in the Parishes of Louisiana are terribly inadequate. The case cited is just one example:

Mr. E. came to a clinic in New Orleans from a distance of about forty miles. The Dr. told him that he had tuberculosis. One of his lungs is almost gone. He and his wife and four small children live in one room. Another child is expected in the fall. He has no money to bring the family in for examinations to see if any of the others have T. B. or to buy the food that the doctor ordered.

He will have some money in the fall IF HE DOES NOT OWE THE LANDLORD TOO MUCH. He may be dead by then and his wife and children may have caught the disease from him, but although a social worker is attempting to help him make some plans for following the doctor's orders, it is likely that anything can be done before it is too late.

I think the health doctor is supposed to care for the school children. He does not even give vaccination unless you pay him. If you are over six years old he will tell you to go to your family physician and tell you to pay him to doctor you, that he is not supposed to.

My school is as poorly lighted as it is heated. The playground was too rough to play on and was not large enough nor was it level. There was not more than an acre in the whole playground. In think the playground should be made larger and smoother and more lights should be put in the building.

They put in the Dadeville Record that they were going to furnish books for the first six grades but when school started they only furnished books for the first grade. They should furnish books for all who was not able to furnish themselves. Some are able, others are not. If you don't have your books it is F on your report and F is failure. I have not made F so far. I would borrow books from the other students and study.

There should be more and better buses. The bus I rode on was a forty passenger but it carried from sixty-five to seventy one one route.

I want the union to help us to get free text books and free and better buses. I will do my part. I want an eight month school.

The school bus drive came on and took us to the school house at seven o'clock and we had to stand out in the weather until eight-fifteen. I know a girl who took pneumonia by standing out in the weather.

A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD
WHITE UNION MEMBER
Jackson's Gap, Ala.

A Letter From a Taxpayer In Starvation County, Mississippi

BROTHER EDITOR:-

Enclosed you will find a clipping from the Memphis Commercial Appeal. It is an article by E. Toler, staff correspondent of the Commercial Appeal: "White Plans New Laws to Help Towns Finance State Industrial Growth."

When capitalist governors and staff correspondents of powerful capitalist newspapers of our Nation gather with the aim of saving capitalism, it's time for the common people of that state to take notice. As a rule the plotters are never exposed before it is too late and the thieves have gotten away with their steal.

Altho Mr. White's plan of selling our natural resources together with the democratic and constitutional rights of our people to a few Wall Street speculators and home capitalists, sounds fantastic to the ordinary mind where a people enjoys "popular representation in their government," we should not forget that such is by far not the case in Mississippi where only 14 per cent of the people vote and where 80 per cent of the voters are referred to as non-qualified voters.

Governor White's own speech before the press association convention casts a glaring light on such gentlemen's hypocrisy in holding out to the public the burning issue of protecting and promoting the health, happiness, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people, by appointing such public enemies as the Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, and similar "civil" organizations to do the job. The names of the gentlemen at the meeting sets the stamp of Wall Street approval on what is intended to be the beginning of a new form of state approved,

financed and protected private owned monopolized piracy.

We will let the conspirators do their own talking. One thing we must give those poor worried millionaires like Gov. White and his associates credit for: You can't say they are trying to hide their patriotic light under a bushel measure of secrecy. They are coming right out in the open.

First, the governor of our state offers a bribe to the press for propagandizing the steal, inviting outside capital to invest their idle capital at no expense whatever to the investor. But the press is also to reach those millions of farmers who have become homeless through an act of God. Such as being foreclosed by a friendly loan association, sold out for taxes or driven from the land by flood or sand storms. They are all invited to come to Mississippi to help share the wealth of our new-born industrial prosperity on a subsistence farm, of course preferably near a factory where they can spend their idle hours and what little money they earn in the factory commissary.

Incidentally the American Legion in our state has carried on a strong drive for subsistence farms for the veteran. But we really need not be in such a hurry, for whether we happen to like it or not there can be no denying the fact that subsistence farming is fast getting to be the only form of farm ownership in Mississippi today, outside, of course, of absentee ownership and big real estate speculators.

The \$100,000 for advertising to the press is not the beginning. No; here is what Gov. White regards as the first step. An amendment to the present laws to authorize the several

municipalities and counties to appoint governing boards in order to promote the health, comfort and convenience of the inhabitants and for the general public welfare (should read, in order to promote the best interests of the local capitalist class), to erect, build, purchase, rent or otherwise acquire industries, factories, manufacturing enterprises and buildings and business projects, and to conduct and manage these on behalf of the citizens of such counties and municipalities. Last part of that sentence should of course read, manage in the interests of absentee stock holders.

The governor proposes that the present statutes of Mississippi be amended so as to authorize the counties and municipalities to issue bonds over periods of from 10 to 20 years. Such bonds should be the general obligations of the respective counties and municipalities payable with and from general revenues raised by taxation. Since there are no taxes levied on such bonds I feel sure it will meet with the approval of all unemployed workers who wish to invest their surplus capital in such inviting undertakings.

Each board shall be authorized to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of such factory buildings or plants on such terms and conditions, as would be of greatest benefit to the bondholders. Beg pardon, I should say, as will best promote and protect the public interest and assist in building up the health, happiness and prosperity of the owner.

There is another paragraph calculated to protect any unemployed worker who wishes to invest a few thousand dollars in state-protected private property. The sentence may

levy taxes for such protection. To a capitalist anything that spells profit is proper and to be sure a legislature in a state where only 20 per cent of the voting public is permitted to voted is very proper and can at all times be depended on to promote the interest of capitalism.

It was not my intention to copy the entire article as it appeared in the Commercial Appeal. The demagoguery employed by Mr. White is so plentiful it makes it right stifling to read. What I would like to do is to scrape some of the sugar coating off. It might not hurt us to ask ourselves a question or two.

1. Just why industry should balance agriculture in Mississippi when farmers in other states, where that end has been attained, are as pitifully impoverished as are the farmers in Mississippi. But perhaps right here is where the new word subsistence farming is beginning to get its meaning. Subsistence farming, that twentieth century capitalist idea of rugged American individualism. To work and starve six months on the farm and starve and work the other six months in the factory. Well, the idea is not exactly Mr. White's no matter how crazy it sounds.

2. Since Mr. White wants us to believe he is wearing himself to death trying to solve the farmers' problems why doesn't he suggest doing something for the farmers? If Mr. White doesn't know it, we homeless farmers and workers from Starvation County have found out long ago that here as in other states and countries the world over bankruptcy in agriculture is brought about by exactly the same forces as those responsible for the collapse of our industry—ex-

ploitation of man by man for profit, capitalism.

Let us see what in short are the attractions for outside capital in Mississippi.

1. Cheap, unorganized labor.
2. 80 per cent are politically disfranchised.
3. More than half the population is jim crowed.
4. Unemployment is great and greatly augmented by taking 3,000,000 acres out of production due to the tax sales.
5. Living standard very low.
6. Illiteracy, counting both Negro and white, almost 45 per cent.

Mr. White has already told us to what lengths he intends to go in order to protect and promote exploitation in Mississippi. What have we got to start with? No taxes on bonds. Sales taxes with which to pay interest on. Tax exempt bonds and interest on money borrowed from Wall Street and lower taxes for the rich. Banks, big hotels over 25 rooms and new factories are tax exempt. A national guard and a brand new State police to kill strikers with. A law that makes it a criminal offence to call a swindler by his right name if he holds a political office or seeking re-election.

There can be only one answer to Gov. White and his associates who present a reactionary front against the common people of our state—a strong farmer-labor party founded on a strongly organized farmer-labor population with the active support of small merchants, teachers and other exploited classes in our state.

A HOMELESS TAXPAYER
IN STARVATION COUNTY
MISS.

Townsendites Clash On Major Problems

In Cleveland two weeks ago some 9,000 elderly people, most of them poor, gathered at the annual convention of the Townsend Old Age Pension movement. They got there the best way they could, and once there they lived in cheap hotels, some in parks, eating nickel sandwiches and drinking milk. But they were there for a given purpose—winning old age pensions so that those who had given their lives in labor might pass the remaining days in security from want and suffering.

They came to make plans for this great crusade and found their movement betrayed by the very persons upon whom they relied to lead them to victory.

Members of the Townsend clubs throughout the country have done a lot of studying in the past six months. They realized that their organization was completely under the thumb of a small ruling clique which was using the movement for personal profit. A small but energetic minority demanded that control of the organization be handed over immediately to the members themselves. Dr. Townsend blocked the movement, temporarily at least, for democratic control of the organization but only at the price of certain promises to the members.

The real attempt at betrayal, however, came when the leadership tried to stampede the convention for support of William Lemke and Father Coughlin's "Union Party."

The Union Party was formed at the instigation of William Randolph Hearst, the fascist publisher, and the Liberty League, in an effort to elect their candidate Landon to the Presidency. They calculated that such a ticket would appeal to the farmers who were dissatisfied with the New Deal, split the Roosevelt vote and lead to the election of Landon.

The stampede was attempted by suddenly bringing Coughlin forward to speak. This fascist-minded priest lit into Roosevelt, called him a liar and betrayer, and ended up by an appeal for the defeat of the New Deal. Coughlin's main attack was on Roosevelt and Browder, the Communist candidate. His criticism of Landon was very mild. Yet, as every farmer should know, Landon is the main enemy of the common people because he directly represents Wall Street and the Liberty League.

GREETINGS

(Continued From Page Three)

fight for economic opportunity and security.

The Advisory Council of the FARMER-LABOR CONFERENCE OF CHICAGO

The Farm Holiday News Greet you in your convention. We salute your magnificent struggle against tremendous odds. While here we have been subject to attacks from the reactionary interests, we have never faced the odds which you have faced. All success to you.

Dale Kramer, editor
FARM HOLIDAY NEWS

Greetings from the National Farmers' Holiday Association! We want you to know that you have our sincere wishes and our admiration. Whenever and wherever the producers of wealth band together in common cause to better their living conditions, they are entitled to the cooperation and support of every progressive.

We believe that the producers of wealth should get the full social value of what their labor produces. We stand ready to fight for that principle.

John H. Bosch, president.
NATIONAL FARMERS HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION

The next star performer was Gerald K. Smith the Louisiana nihilist who is trying to wear the mantle of the late Huey P. Long. Like Coughlin, Smith is also a fascist. He even went so far as to propose "storm troops" of young men to break up Communist and Socialist meetings. This is a page out of the notebook of Adolph Hitler and Mussolini. Storm troops which break up Socialist and Communist meetings will also break up meetings of the Farmers Union, the Share Croppers Union and every other organization of the common people. Never forget that.

Dr. Townsend took his place beside Coughlin and Smith in support of the Landon stooge. But the membership did not follow Gomer Smith from Oklahoma who stated that he supported Roosevelt as against Landon and

Wall Street. While Townsend at first declared he would kick Gomer Smith out of the organization, he later discovered that there was too much support for Smith for him to do that.

The Share Croppers Union stands shoulder to shoulder with the Townsend movement for old-age pensions. It is in favor of making the Townsend organization a really democratic organization, controlled by its own membership. It will support every move in that direction, but it warns its brother farmers in the Townsend movement against Coughlin, Smith and the other fascists who will lead their movement and the people to disaster if they have their way.

See that the Union Label is on you bread and you'll decrease the bread lines!

GREETINGS

from

BROOKWOOD LABOR COLLEGE

A School for Progressive Labor Education

KATONAH, N. Y.

Greetings from

**COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE,
MENA, ARKANSAS**

Labor College of Southern Farmers and Workers

It is indeed an accomplishment to be able to hold this historic convention which will prove a cornerstone in the fight of the southern workers and tenant farmers to liberate themselves from the vicious system of peonage to which they are subjected at the present time.

ALL power to these brave fighters.

We are proud of your courageous, militant union.

FARMERS NATIONAL WEEKLY

Box 540, Minneapolis, Minn.

**ORGANIZING INTO STRONG COHESIVE
UNIONS IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH
SHARECROPPERS, TENANTS, SMALL
FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOR
CAN HOPE TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDI-
TIONS. MORE POWER TO THE SHARE
CROPPERS UNION OF ALABAMA.**

GARDNER JACKSON, Chairman

National Committee on Rural Social Planning

LET'S PLAN TOGETHER

(Continued from page 1)

the drouth-stricken farmers and to stop the planters from getting it all. 4. The struggle against eviction from the land, against mortgage foreclosures and for cancellation of unjust debts. 5. A struggle for work and cash relief for all poverty stricken people. 6. A struggle to win better schools for white and Negro rural people. 7. The building of a united defense movement that will be powerful enough to stop landlord terror, to protect union members from murder and violence, and to win the active support of other farmer, labor, church and other organizations all over the country.

We believe we can accomplish a great deal by working together. Our strength will be much greater. We will win more. We urge you to take favorable action upon our proposal as soon as possible.

Again we extend our most comradely greetings to the officers and members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and express our sincere hope that you will approve of our proposal. We are with you for a greater and more united struggle to free the oppressed white and Negro toilers of the South from slavery and starvation, and to win freedom, justice and plenty.

Fraternally yours,

**SHARE CROPPERS UNION
HARRY WILLIAMS, President
C. L. JOHNSON, Secretary**

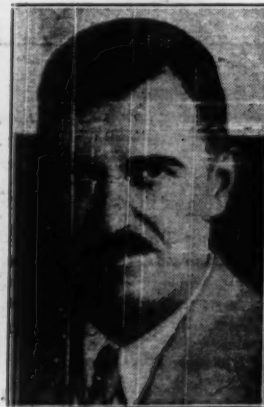
GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

C. H. HAMLIN

ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Wilson, N. C.

The Communist Party Greets the First Convention of the Share Croppers Union



EARL BROWDER,
Candidate for President



JAMES W. FORD,
Candidate for Vice-President

We pledge unwavering support to you in your struggles against land monopolists, bankers and their thugs, kept judges and yellow press.

Here is our Farm Plank from our 1936 Presidential election platform:

We declare that the American government is obligated to save the American farmers from distress and ruin, to guarantee the farmers and tenants their inalienable right to possession of their land, their homes and their chattels. We demand for this purpose the immediate refinancing of the farmers' debts with government loans at nominal interest.

We demand a halt to evictions and foreclosures, a long-time moratorium on all needy farmers' debts, and the adoption of measures to provide land for the landless farmers.

We favor immediate relief to the drouth-stricken farmers by the government. We favor a graduated land tax to prevent the accumulation of large land holdings in the hands of the insurance companies, private and government banks and other absentee owners.

We favor exemption from taxation of small operating farmers and farm cooperatives.

We are unalterably opposed to the policy of crop destruction and curtailment.

We support government regulation of farm prices with the aim of guaranteeing to the farmer his cost of production. We urge scientific soil conservation under supervision of farmers' organizations, with compensation to farmer-owners and tenants for loss of income.

**READ AND STUDY THIS PLANK DISCUSS IT
VOTE COMMUNIST!!**

For a free, prosperous and happy America